

423 the State as experimental stations, model farms, etc. Out of the rest of the estates, 55,000 new small holdings were made. These were given to the landless or permanently leased to owners of very small farms. Beginning in 1925 these new farms could be purchased as freeholds on the basis of a 55-year amortization plan. The State kept the forests and uncultivable lands and out of these created 88,700 hectares of arable land. This was in turn divided into 6,600 new farms.

- 433 The agrarian reform¹_^ solved many social problems of the young republic, although it made staunch enemies of the Baltic German gentry. It also increased the agricultural output, which at its peak in 1927, was estimated at 247,300,000 Estonian kroons. The world economic crisis in the thirties hit Estonian agriculture hard, but

¹ [see cat. 116, p. 46 -- -47- Analyst]

- 433 during the crisis reorganization occurred: more emphasis was then put on cereal production and less on dairy farming. Beginning with 1933 the output began to rise and in 1938 it had almost reached again the 1927 level.

642 Estonia as a young republic underwent several constitutional changes. The first Constitution, passed in 1920¹, was extremely liberal. The Estonian people exercised their power through a [646] referendum and a one-chamber parliament

(Riigikogu) which comprised one hundred members. Candidates for Riigikogu were nominated by various political parties and elected by the

643 people for a three-year term. The executive branch was comparatively weak, and was composed usually of a coalition of representatives of several parties. There was no separately elected

President, and the head of the State was the Prime Minister, called Riigivanem 48 ('State Elder'),

2 [June 15, 1920 - - Analyst]

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1m,

Sociological Background

LABOR FORCE

- 433 Although Estonia is a predominantly agricultural country she had even prior to World War I considerable industrial development, and at that time was among the most industrialized areas in czarist Russia. There were great [439] textile plants in Narva, which supplied Russia with cotton, linen and woolen fabrics, and heavy industry in Tallin, making railroad cars and various types of machinery, to name only two of the numerous industries. Approximately 80 per cent of the industry inherited from czarist Russia was set up for mass production for the vast Russian market, and as such did not suit the needs of the Estonian Republic. Industry in the first years of the Republic had to be

433 reorganized to meet the home market and to win West European markets as well.

464 At the advent of independence Estonia possessed an extensive and well-trained body of industrial workers, whose quality was further improved when various industrial schools and the Polytechnical University, which provided engineering training, were established. Many Estonians received their higher technical training in other countries and returned home to make use of their newly acquired skills in Estonian industry. Estonian skilled workers and engineers were very much appreciated even in czarist Russia, and they have also made a good adjustment as emigrants after World War II. That Estonian farmers and farm workers were superior to Russian ones may be proved by evidence that everywhere in Russia before the

464 group among the active population was the self-
162

employed group, those who worked in their own independent enterprises with members of their families or alone, such as small-holders and 465Craftsmen of various types. The total income of all working groups was in 1939 about 182.2 million Estonian kroons. Of this sum the various occupational groups received the following shares:

Industry.....	41.7
State and local governmental employees.....	25.7
Agriculture.....	13.1
Trade, including banking and insurance.....	11.6
Professional groups.....	4.1
Transportation.....	2.5

- 433 Estonia's economy rests on agriculture and industry. In 1939 the net agricultural output

433 was \$110,000,000, and that of industry \$59,000,000 (on the basis of 1951 prices).

241 The use of labor in agriculture is shown in Table 3. There was a trend on Estonian farms to use more seasonal labor from among members of the farmers' families. Hired help was difficult to get. This scarcity of workers in agriculture was partly alleviated by the employment of Polish agrarian workers. The percentage of hired workers in agriculture was only 10 per cent of the total number of workers. The percentage of nonworking farm family members was 20.8, which leaves for the working members of the farmers' families 69.2 per cent of the total number of workers.

464 The distribution of labor in most important
465 branches of industry in the last days of the Estonian Republic is given in Table 4. An

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1p,

Sociological Background

HEALTH AND SANITATION

• 433 In normal times Estonia never suffered from food shortages. There was plenty of food; it has been estimated that Estonia could have fed three times her population during her independence period.

164 Diseases. Tuberculosis and cancer were the diseases which had the highest mortality rate. Rheumatism was frequent. Smallpox was almost eliminated in Estonia by the compulsory vaccination of children, and cases of infantile paralysis were very rare.

744 Estonia's public health services were decentralized in 1928. The actual work then was carried out by local self-governments, but was organized and controlled by the Public Health

THE NORTH-WESTERN BORDER

Es. of the new shale mines, shale-refining plants, electric power stations, etc., while increasing the economic potential of the U.S.S.R. as a whole, has perceptibly intensified the manpower problem from which Estonia is suffering as a consequence of the war. Thousands of Estonians fell in action during the hostilities, thousands were deported to the East by Soviet authorities in 1941 and many thousands more fled from their mother-country westward to escape the Soviet régime. The loss of such a considerable number of her inhabitants – many of them able-bodied people in the prime of life – has depleted the already scanty manpower resources of the little country. Hardly a single article on Estonian economy appearing in Soviet publications after the war has omitted to stress that Estonia's exceptional shortage of labour was a handicap for the reconstruction work in that country. This shortcoming has been remedied in the usual way, namely by importing Russian manpower in large enough numbers to fill the gaps created by the voluntary or forced exodus of the Estonians. Russian technical experts, mining engineers and skilled workers are helping to keep the wheels of Estonian economy turning. This applies especially to the 'Estonian Donbass', where can be found coal-miners from the Donets Basin and from the Moscow Province and shale-miners from the distant Volga.³¹

S.U. While Russian colonization of Eastern Estonia is prompted by economic considerations a strategic colonization is simultaneously taking place in Estonia's 'Far West', her islands in the Baltic. The latter are important outposts of the U.S.S.R. as a whole and it is not surprising that the Soviet authorities should have sent there not only soldiers and sailors but also settlers. Thus on the small island of Vormsi, where there had never been a single Russian, there is now a Russian school with seven forms.³² In so far as the islands preserved their Estonian character the Soviet authorities were determined to transform them into particularly reliable communist strongholds. Thus the 'movement' for the collectivization of Estonian agriculture originated under the guidance of a Russian party secretary on the island of Saaremaa (Ösel) where the first 'Kolkhoz' was formed in the autumn of 1947.³³

Es. [660] When Soviet troops occupied Estonia in June 1940 the Estonian Communist Party was extremely small. In Estonia itself it had been decimated by the terror of the 'bourgeois régime', while the ranks of the Estonian communists in Russia had been depleted through Stalin's big purge. In the first half of 1940 small communist organizations existed in Tallin, where the party had between 120 and 150 members, and in other Estonian towns such as Tartu, Narva and Pärnu. In February 1941, over seven months after the establishment of the Soviet régime, the Estonian Communist Party had 2,107 full members and candidate-members which corresponded to 0.2 per cent of the total population of the country.* The newly recruited party members included

* *Sovetskaya Estoniya*, April 7th and 8th, 1951.